

TOP SECRET

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GENERAL

1. US, UK, and France extend area of agreement on Germany--
US Ambassador Jessup in Paris, preparing for the 23 May meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, reports that agreement among the delegates of the US, the UK, and France now includes the rejection of any Soviet proposals for a new all-German constituent assembly or for an all-German plebiscite on unification. The delegates are agreed that the unification of Germany is conditional upon the recognition of civil liberties and political freedom for all German Zones, the denial of representation for para-political organizations, and the abolishment of the eastern zone Volkspolizei.

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Concerning economic conditions for the unification of Germany, the delegates agreed that the essential prerequisites are: (a) the termination of reparations; (b) the relinquishment by the USSR of the companies it owns in the eastern zone; and (c) a four-power agreement on occupation costs. In concurring that the 1948 Ruhr agreement must not be scrapped, the US and UK delegates expressed the view that the USSR should be admitted to participation in the Ruhr authority only if this point were the one obstacle to a final settlement.

The delegates agreed that any Soviet proposal for a total troop evacuation must be rejected. The British and French delegates are opposed to any regrouping of forces until a German government exists which is capable of maintaining order. The French delegate stressed that this is a vital security question for France in relation to both Germany and the USSR.

US opposes any unanimous vote arrangement--The Department of State has meanwhile informed Jessup, in response to his report that the western delegations have been considering whether to apply the principle of unanimous four-power vote to the subjects of disarmament and demilitarization,

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that the majority vote principle should be maintained. The Department indicates not only that the US is reluctant to abandon the majority principle in any particular instance but that the unanimity principle would be particularly objectionable in security matters. The Department points out that under such an arrangement the USSR could hamper western efforts to maintain law and order in Germany and concludes that such an arrangement could reassure neither the West nor the USSR on the subject of security.

EUROPE

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Disputes reported among leaders--
US Embassy Paris transmits from exiled former Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Trade Ripka a report by a "trusted source" that a disagreement involving President Gottwald, Foreign Minister Clementis, and Communist Party Secretary General Slansky exists in top Communist circles in Prague. Source further reported the arrival in Prague on 12 May of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Zorin and suggested that Zorin's arrival is related to the differences among Czechoslovak leaders. Meanwhile, US Embassy Prague reports widespread rumors concerning disputes among top Czechoslovak officials but estimates that such disagreements are personal not organizational and are more concerned with tactics than with loyalty to the leadership of the USSR.

(CIA Comment: CIA has received other information to substantiate this report of dissension among the Czechoslovak Communist hierarchy. The Kremlin may hope by sending Zorin to Prague to avert a public airing of this rift at the 25 May Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.)